

The Great War—1329th Day

NOW IN THE WEST

Army Officer Says Germany Plans Air Raids on N. Y.

Retired Colonel Declares Submarines Equipped With Aeros Are Coming

Colonel E. A. Havers, of New York and Westwood, N. J., a retired army officer, in a lecture last night for the benefit of the Women's Homeopathic Unit, at the Park Avenue Hotel, declared that New York's devastation is now being planned by Germany.

Giant submarines, each capable of carrying fifteen collapsible aeros, are being constructed in German ports, he said. Each aeroplane carries 150 pounds of explosives. The attacks on New York will be made as soon as the weather settles.

Colonel Havers then continued: "I have recently received private information from Copenhagen that Germany is constructing giant submarines as part of a plan to attack New York City."

"Each of these U-boats carries fifteen collapsible aeroplanes, which have a speed of 140 miles an hour, and each of which carries 150 pounds of explosives."

Colonel Havers declared that these U-boats could stop 300 miles off the coast and release the aeroplanes. "These aeroplanes," he said, "would be able to make a prolonged attack on the city and would be able to return to the mother submarines with little fear of molestation."

In proof of their almost certain immunity from attack, Colonel Havers cited conditions in London. "There," he said, "are to be found the most perfect defenses against aerial raiders."

"Yet, these elaborate defenses were not able to keep the raiders out, and New York City, with no aerial defenses, and no fighting aeroplanes to battle the foe, would be wholly at the mercy of the invaders."

Colonel Havers, beyond stating that his information came from a reliable party in Copenhagen, refused to disclose the source of the report.

"But," he added, "the report will be verified, as far as an attempted attack by the foe is concerned, as soon as the weather conditions are more settled."

Freshets Block Troops on the Piave

Military Activity Confined to Patrol Actions and Aerial Encounters

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ITALIAN ARMY, March 18.—The snow along the Piave front has been reduced considerably by mild weather recently, but the amount remaining is sufficient to retard extensive operations. Military activity is confined chiefly to patrol actions and aerial encounters.

The Piave front also is affected by spring freshets, having made the stream too wide and deep for crossing by considerable bodies of troops.

The head of the American military mission to Italy is making a tour of the mountain and Piave fronts, visiting each army corps and examining the organization and equipment of the troops.

Italian fliers bring down foe's captive balloons.

LONDON, March 20.—Italian artillery has carried out effective bombardments of the enemy positions on the left bank of the Piave River, between Novento and Griesola, according to an official statement issued at Rome today. There have been frequent harassing big gun clashes west of Lake Garda.

Two captive balloons were set on fire by Italian aviators at Conegliano and Col Mirano, while French aviators brought down a host of balloons at San Giacomo di Veglia and British fliers another on the Asiago Plateau.

Celebrant of Tuscania Is Tarrad and Feathered

RENO, Nev., March 20.—Elmer White, who boasted that he helped to celebrate the sinking of the Tuscania at Gardnerville, Nev., several weeks ago, was fished in a lake and wrapped with an iron cat-o-nine-tails at Yerington, Nev., last night by a citizens' committee.

He then was coated with tar and feathers and ordered out of town.

U. S. Sailors Abroad Want Own Commander

WASHINGTON, March 20.—American naval officers are dissatisfied because a British officer, Admiral Sir Lewis Bayly, is the local commander where the United States destroyer fleet makes its headquarters in Europe and directs all the American as well as the British units operating from that point.

Strong representations are being made to Secretary of the Navy Daniels that an American naval officer of flag rank should be sent to take command, and that the destroyers should not be under British direction.

While the number of American destroyers abroad was small, it is argued, it was logical that they should work as a part of the British organization. Now that the United States fleet has reached considerable proportions and includes some of the latest and best destroyers, naval officers feel the time has arrived for complete American operation.

Vice-Admiral William S. Sims has jurisdiction over all American craft operating in British and French waters, but he is located in London as a representative of the Chief of Naval Operations and has little to do with the actual direction of the fleet, which is left to Admiral Bayly.

U-Boat, Trapped, Towed Into British Port

Enemy Sailor Describes Capture by English Fishing Craft

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 20 (By mail).—A Dutch newspaper prints the story of a German U-boat which was caught in a British trap and towed into a British port. The story comes from a member of the U-boat's crew who escaped from England and is interned in Holland.

"We had sighted some English fishing boats off the English coast and were manoeuvring for attack, when their cautious movements led us to suspect a trap, so we dived. We proceeded slowly, but presently the screw began to beat irregularly and the commander could not make out what had happened."

"After about two hours the water seemed curiously still and the commander decided to come to the surface. When we emerged we were alongside a quay where stood a number of smiling British sailors. We were in British port, towed in like a dead fish."

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Venice Palaces Shut As Exodus Continues

Business and Residence Quarters Are Deserted Since Air Raids

VENICE, Italy, March 18.—The exodus from Venice has been resumed in consequence of recent air raids. Outgoing trains are crowded and gondolas are busily transporting household goods outside the danger zone.

Residential and business quarters present a deserted appearance. The palaces along the Grand Canal are closed, as much damage has been done in this section in the recent raids. The front of the palace in which Robert Browning lived and died has been scarred badly and all the stained glass windows have been shattered.

The American Red Cross has established a post at the railway station and is supplying food to persons departing.

Flying School Losses Useless, Says "Ace"

Lieutenant Flachaire, French Aviator, Urges Stricter Discipline at Camps

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Lieutenant G. Flachaire, one of the French "aces" recently ordered to this country to assist in the work of training American fliers, gave Washington today a daring exhibition of the various acrobatic manoeuvres now deemed necessary for successful solo work. He flew a Spad machine, the equipment furnished French aces for their air contests with the German champion aviators.

General Pershing's fliers will have similar machines for their solo work over the American sectors of the battle front.

The French lieutenant, who joined the aviation service in January, 1915, spoke today of accidents at flying schools here and abroad.

"The losses in the schools are useless losses," he said. "They can be reduced by strict discipline, by the use of good instructors and by forbidding acrobatic flights until the pilot has absolutely mastered his art."

The Spad machine is the type selected for American aces in France. Originally, contracts for many millions of dollars in these swift craft were placed in the United States, but just as the manufacture was about to start General Pershing recommended that machines of this type be secured abroad for the initial equipment of his forces.

Sergeant Bailey, of Old 69th, Has Won Cross

Makes Seventh Medal for Former New York Life Guard

Sergeant William Lee Bailey, one of the Old 69th Regiment, and former commodore of the Fordham Heights Division of the New York life saving force, is wearing his seventh medal, according to news received yesterday by his relatives at 1555 Sedgwick Avenue, The Bronx.

He has just been awarded the Croix de Guerre by France, along with eight other members of the old 69th, for heroism at the front.

Sergeant Bailey won his six other medals by saving the lives of that number of persons while stationed with the life saving force at 181st Street and the North River. He joined the 69th seven years ago and served on the Mexican border. In France he was one of the first to volunteer for scout duty.

Sergeant Bailey is forty years old and has been married seventeen years.

British Steamer Sunk; No Word of Passengers

Amazon, of Royal Mail Line, Torpedoed Near Gibraltar

BUENOS AYRES, March 20.—A dispatch from Rio de Janeiro says the office of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company there has been notified of the torpedoing of the Royal Mail steamer Amazon near Gibraltar and that the fate of the passengers is unknown. The local offices of the steamship company here are unable to confirm the report.

The Amazon was due to arrive on this side of the Atlantic from Liverpool early in April.

The Amazon is a vessel of 10,037 tons gross. She was built in Belfast by Harland & Wolff and belongs to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company of London.

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The Women, Children and Men of Northwestern France and Belgium Are Naked

We want all your old clothing, shoes, hats and underwear IMMEDIATELY. Notify The Fifth Avenue Association at 542 Fifth Ave., or telephone 2390 Vanderbilt, and the Red Cross Delivery will call for bundles.

Saks & Company

Broadway at 34th Street

Will offer most unusual values today in

Women's Spring Suits Special at \$29.50

Newest and most individual of Spring suits in man-tailored, braid-trimmed, and dressy Eton and Pony effects, displaying the season's most exclusive ideas in collars and vestees. Beautifully tailored in

Smart Tweeds, Fine quality Taffeta, Poiret Twill, Gabardine, Oxfords, Heather Mixtures, and Wool Jersey.

All the wanted colors. Sizes 34 to 44, and one model to 50½. Fourth Floor.

New Sports and Street Coats for Women at \$25

—skillful reproductions of our higher-priced models

Few coats at this popular figure are nearly as individual as these. They are all reproductions of higher-priced models, developed in Wool Velour, Wool Jersey, Covert, Army Cloth, Serge, Gabardine, Burella, Wool Poplin and mixtures.

Sizes 34 to 48.

Women's Waterproof Tweed Coats at \$17.50

Stunning seven-eighth length models, for motoring and general wear. Yoke and sleeves lined with Satin. Obtainable in Grey, Green and Tan tones. Sizes 34 to 48.

Beginning Today—An Important Special

Sale of 175 Women's Afternoon and Street Dresses Very Special at \$18.50

This is a very low price for frocks so smart, so new and becoming. They are the result of a very special purchase from one of New York's leading dressmakers. Included are:

Tailored Serge Dresses in Straight-line model or with plaited tunic skirt; embroidered and beaded frocks of Crepe de Chine; others in Taffeta and combination effects.

Those in Serge are obtainable in Navy Blue and Black; those in Silk are to be had in Taupe, Navy Blue, Beige, Black, Copenhagen Blue and Wisteria. Fourth Floor.

Saks & Company

Broadway at 34th Street

Announce for Thursday, Friday and Saturday only

A Sale of Men's Soft Hats and Derbies at \$1.75

This event has been planned to clear out all broken assortments of soft hats and derbies in our stock. Every hat is in excellent condition, and the styles are all good.

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Teutons Hide Real Plans in Talk of Drive

Western Offensive Publicity Believed Designed to Confuse Allies

Press Gossip Shows Hand of Dictator

Strong Forces, However, Have Been Massed Under Able Leaders

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Renewal of German talk of a great West front offensive this spring is ascribed in official dispatches from Switzerland today as due to the desire of the German General Staff to confuse the Allies as to Germany's real intentions.

Attention is called, however, to the concentration of strong German forces in the West under able leaders. Germany's advance notices of an attack, in the words of the dispatch, probably are designed to unsettle opinion and to create inaccurate information.

German newspapers are quoted to show that big armies have been put in the West, and increasing artillery activity, it is declared, may be of more than passing significance.

Say Offensive Is Near

"The German press," say the dispatches, "has been attempting recently to convey the impression that the great offensive is to be launched in the West, and that the hour of the attack is not far distant, and that the French had dug their graves with their own hands. These words were understood to denote that the offensive had been decided on; that it would be soon, and it undoubtedly would be aimed particularly against the French."

The reports which Germany is spreading may have a tendency in the mind of the German General Staff to unsettle opinion and upset predictions by the circulation of inaccurate information. It is necessary in any case to note these different manifestations.

Expect Gallwitz Attack

A dispatch from Berlin to the "Bayerische Nachrichten" March 18 emphasizes the fact that the German press on the French front between that of the Crown Prince and that of Duke Albrecht of Wurttemberg has been increased by the German communiqué. Their armies must be about 350,000 strong in the Verdun-Lunville sector. This army, which is an attacking army and whose head is famous as an artilleryman of the highest order, says this dispatch, "probably will not delay long in assuming the offensive. The ceaselessly increasing artillery activity in the sector is besides a highly characteristic symptom. It is probable that the army which operated against Italy now forms a part of the Gallwitz army group."

"It is well to compare this dispatch with the article that the military correspondents of the semi-official 'Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung,' published on March 18, in this article, entitled, 'When Will the Offensive Be Made?' one reads this sentence: 'It is very probable that the many divisions that are now assembled on the Western front will not be long inactive.' It is true that the same writer adds, 'Can it be said that we will be postponing the final decision if we do not attack at once? Are there not other ways of crushing our adversaries? The shameful violence shown by the Entente toward Holland shows us how much the submarine war menaces our enemies. Even if we should not attack, the leaders of the Entente will soon be themselves brought to ruin.'"

Press Reports All Alike

"The correspondent of the 'National Zeitung,' of Basle, telegraphed to that paper on March 18, from Vienna: 'According to my own impressions, official circles cannot count upon the immediate success of their pacifist efforts and the starting of an attack on the West front seems inevitable.'"

The dispatch concludes with the following comment: "It is of interest to record all these press notes whose conclusions tend to indicate that they are following orders."

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French Drive Raiders Back In Lorraine

Germans Report "French" Artillery Active at American Position

Guns Roar at Verdun

British Destroy Nineteen Enemy Airplanes and Force Nine Down

Official Statements

West FRENCH

PARIS, Tuesday, March 19 (night).—The artillery actions were heavy on the right bank of the Meuse, in Lorraine, between Bure and Badonviller, and at some points in Upper Alsace.

PARIS, March 20 (DAY).—The German artillery was rather active in the Champagne on the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) and in the Woëvre.

After spirited bombardments the Germans undertook infantry actions at several points of the front, but obtained no results. North-east of Bure a German raid was repulsed easily. In the Souain sector the enemy attempted three times to approach the French trench, but was repulsed by the violence of the French fire, suffering severe losses. In Lorraine the Germans made a strong attack upon positions south of Arracourt. Violent hand-to-hand fighting resulted. Our troops everywhere held the advantage, repulsing the Germans and taking prisoners.

Last of Sunday the French made an incursion into the German lines.

BRITISH

LONDON, Tuesday, March 19 (NIGHT).—A party of the enemy attempted to approach our lines this morning northeast of Arracourt, but was driven off with loss.

The activity of the enemy artillery against both the forward and back areas in the Trier sector continues. There was some hostile artillery activity in the south of Cambrai, in the neighborhood of Vermelles and against a number of localities between the La Bassée Canal and Arras.

LONDON, March 20 (DAY).—Raids attempted by the enemy last night in the neighborhood of Valenciennes were successfully repulsed by Portuguese troops. With the exception of some artillery activity on both sides in the Paschendale sector, there is nothing further to report.

(NIGHT).—Hostile raiding parties attacked two of our posts last night south of Passchendaele. In each case the enemy was repulsed. Several prisoners were left in our hands and also a number of dead in front of our positions.

The hostile artillery was active today north of La Bassée Canal and in the neighborhood of the Grenier and Passchendaele.